

THE COURIER

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Judith E. Haskell Longtime Society Volunteer Dies

Judith E. Haskell, longtime Society volunteer, died suddenly on 23 December 2005 at her home on Paradise Road, Bethel. Born in Norway, 31 August 1933, the daughter of David A. and Adeline DeCoster Klain, she attended Norway schools and graduated from Norway High School in 1950. She also attended Jackson College of Tufts University for two years before marrying her high school classmate Colwyn Haskell in 1952. A resident of Bethel with her husband since 1956, she later completed requirements for her college degree from the University of Maine. Mother of two children, James and Kathryn, she excelled as a cook and was devoted to her three grandchildren. A distant relative of Ada Durrell, the last resident of the Dr. Moses Mason House, she became interested in the Bethel Historical Society, where she volunteered as a guide for tours of the house in 1974. From that point on, she became one of the Society's most dedicated and devoted volunteers, serving on numerous committees, as secretary of the Society and clerk of the trustees as well as a trustee. She also volunteered in the Society museum shop and was known for her outstanding baking and cooking.

Following her death, Society Executive Director Stanley R. Howe wrote a long eulogy in her memory, which was published in the local newspaper. Some of those remarks appear here: *The death of Judy Haskell is without doubt the hardest news for me to even contemplate, the passing of our great Society volunteer. I suppose it was totally unrealistic of me to believe she would always be there, especially when one realizes she was just a decade older than I am in age. But when you were with Judy you never thought of age and dying. She was so full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas that your mind raced to encompass all that she embodied in our many discussions. So one can only imagine how devastated I was (along with many others) to learn of the terrible news of her death.*

From the first time I met Judy in 1974, I knew she was someone very special. She came to the Society as a distant relative of the late Ada Durrell, who was the last owner of what is today the Dr. Moses Mason House prior to the purchase by the Bingham Trust. Right away, I found her lively, bright, and a keen observer of life, especially its humorous sides. Through all the years, we would laugh about so many incidents that either happened at the Society or ones we became aware of through others.

As a volunteer, Judy would serve in so many capacities from Society secretary to trustee, on all kinds of committees, and as someone who could be depended upon to cook or help with many things that simply needed to get done, including, with her husband Colwyn, repairing plaster walls at the Society's Robinson House. For years, she ably chaired the Museum Committee and the committee which selected the recipient of the Noll Volunteer Service Award, served as head guide, worked in the museum shop, and assisted wherever she was needed, particularly as an "eagle-eyed" proofreader. Through all this service and much more, we often talked daily, either on the phone or when I saw her at the post office or in the grocery store. This invariably kind and generous woman was always interested in the latest Society news and anything else I could bring to her attention. In addition, she often acted as a valued and significant 'sounding board' for



Judith E. Haskell (second from left) at the memorial service she organized for Mildred Thomas at the Dr. Moses Mason House in the spring of 1996. Also in the photo are Rev. Brendon Bass (left) and two relatives of Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bailey.

ideas I had which needed to be explored and refined.

Of all her enthusiasms in regard to the Society, perhaps the most evident was each year as we prepared the Dr. Moses Mason House for the annual "Christmas with the Masons" celebration. Judy took the period dining room as her space to decorate with boughs, berries and fruit. Like the rest of us, she was transformed during those evenings by the 'magic' of this event with its unique lighting, smells, and sounds. This year's rendition was especially memorable since we had a greater variety of people present (ages nine to ninety) and the fact that they really got into the spirit of things by singing along with the harpist in this historic setting. Judy never appeared more radiant and enthused by all that went so very well that evening. I am now eternally grateful that what was to be her last appearance at this event was such an outstanding one.

On December 22, the day before she died, we received word that a foundation had provided some funding for a grant proposal we had made in support of creating a junior historical society and establishing a student intern program. Judy and I had discussed this project several times so I tried to call her that day to tell her the good news. Despite several attempts, I did not reach her and early the next day she died. With her deep interest in the young, I have no doubt that Judy would be as thrilled as we are by this development. Now we have our work cut out for us to make a success of this new opportunity and to stay true to the rich legacy of service and selfless dedication that she has left us.

Judy's family has requested that anyone wishing to remember her can make tax deductible gifts in her memory for the student intern program. Anyone so inclined may send contributions to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. There is also expected to a "Remembering Time" for Judy later in the spring.

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Program Schedule for 2006

February 18—Heritage Day

March-April—Course: Maine and the Civil War

May 11—Oral History Night: 40 Years of the Bethel

Historical Society 1966-2006

May 27—Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show

St. Never's Day Sale

June 8—Lecture: "A Painter's Progress: The Life, Work and

Travels of Harrison Bird Brown of Portland,

Maine," Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., State Historian

and Director, Maine Historic Preservation

Commission

June 16 & 17—House Tour

July 1—2006 Opening of Dr. Moses Mason House for

Tours, Tues.-Sunday, 1-4 p.m

July 4—Community Picnic and Portland Brass Quintet

Concert

July 29—Yankee Brass Concert

August 11-13—Sudbury Canada Days

August 11—Hall Memorial Lecture, "New England's

Legacy: Memory and Identity in an American

Region," David H. Watters, Ph.D., Director, Center

for New England Culture, University of New

Hampshire

August 13—Lecture, "Maine's Connected Farm Buildings:

The Uncommon Architecture of Common

Farmers", Thomas Hubka, University of Wisconsin,

Milwaukee

September 3—Last Day of Regularly Scheduled Tours of

the Dr. Moses Mason House

September 14—Annual Meeting and Lecture,

"Photographic Retrospective: 40 Years of the

Bethel Historical Society," Stanley R. Howe,

Executive Director, Bethel Historical Society

October 12—Lecture, "Styles Bridges: Yankee Senator,"

James J. Kiepper, Biographer, Emeritus, SUNY,

Albany

November 9—Lecture, "Landscape and Figures: Nature and

Culture in New England," Kent Ryden, Ph.D.,

Director, American and New England Studies,

University of Southern Maine

December 7—"Christmas with the Masons"

December 31—9th Annual "New Year's Bethel"

Further information on times and place for these events can

be obtained from our web-site or by calling the Society

office: (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910.

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: info@bethelhistorical.org



Judy Haskell (center) with Priscella and Dean Walker at the O'Neil Robinson House in May 2001, during ceremonies commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Society's founding.

President's Column

Now that the end of the year has come and gone, we are preparing for 2006. Before looking ahead, it is important to note that several things happened in November and December 2005. They include the installation of a new propane wall heater in the Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room, completion of repairs to the Dr. Mason House in order for it to be painted in 2006, and the seeking of proposals for the installation of alarm systems in the Dr. Mason House.

On the Robinson House front, a newly re-organized Capital Campaign Committee is gearing up to launch Phase II of the Campaign by developing strategies (in consultation with the Building Committee) for constructing the proposed museum wing incrementally with expert guidance from our architect Jim Reuter.

A most exciting development is the award of a grant from the Morton-Kelly Trust to support the organization of a junior historical society and the creation of a student intern program. More on this will be included in a forthcoming issue.

A sincere thank you is due all those who were sponsors (see list on page 2) for the 8th annual New Year's Bethel, which was again a success. Also much appreciation is due all those who volunteered to help with this popular community event.

We are looking forward to another successful and exciting year in 2006 as the Society celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding. Be sure to check out the 2006 program schedule on page 2.

Allen Cressy

Capital Campaign Update

Over \$692,000 has been raised to date from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors. Another comprehensive listing of those making gifts will be included in a future issue. To learn more about this important Society project or to make a capital gift in any amount, see our web-site address on page 12 or call (800) 824-2910 or write us at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

In Memoriam

Died, 23 December 2005, Judith E. Haskell,
Bethel, Life Member

New Life Members

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/Norway, ME
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A record \$25,832 was raised from 446 donors. Much gratitude is due all of the following for their generosity.

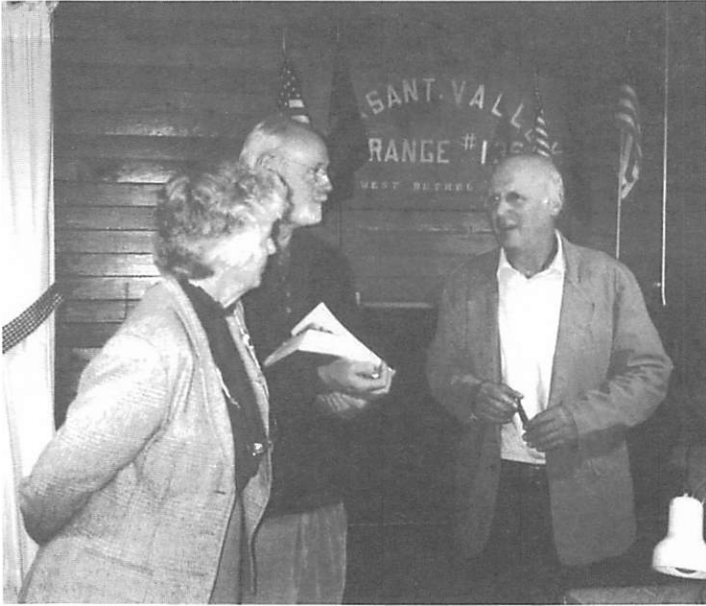
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 Lester Wormell, Jr., Ridgefield, CT
 Joy Yarnell, Upton, ME
 Edna York, Bethel; *in memory of Wilma Gorman*
 Raymond E. York, Camarillo, CA
 Jane B. Young, Bethel; *in memory of Hope Tibbetts*

Photo Gallery



William "Bill" Bunting (right) discusses his books (*A Day's Work*, Volumes 1 & 2) with Society Life Members Kim and Alice Abbott at Pleasant Valley Grange in West Bethel following his slide presentation in October which was part of the programming accompanying the Smithsonian's "Barn Again!" exhibit. His appearance was made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council, which also sponsored the Smithsonian's barn exhibition in Maine.



With the support of the Maine Humanities Council, which brought the Smithsonian's "Barn Again" exhibit to Maine, there also was developed a Maine barn exhibit. Don Cyr, director of the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel (center) served as project scholar and is shown in front of the exhibit panels with the Society's Danna Nickerson, Office Secretary and Assistant Treasurer (left) and Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett. Cyr also presented a lecture on Aroostook barns, which was sponsored in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council on the last day of the exhibit, 22 October 2005.



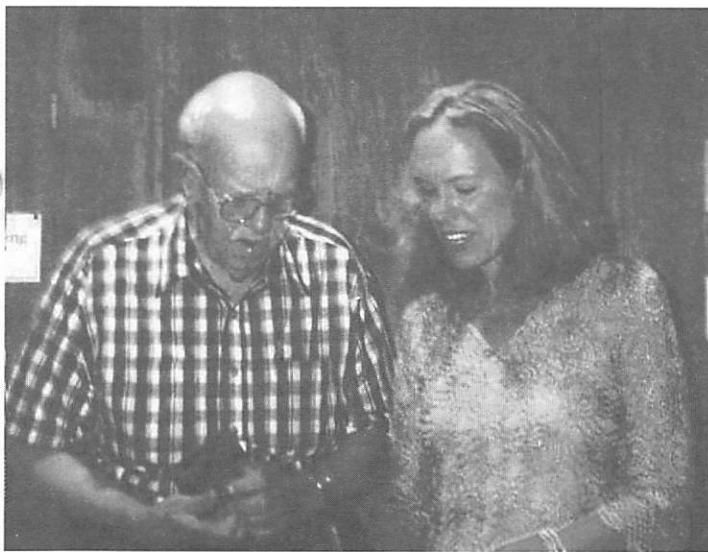
Randall Bennett, Assistant Director and Society Curator of Collections, discusses the art show with some visitors during Sudbury Canada Days.



Hall Memorial Lecturer Bunny McBride(left) visits the "Molly Ockett and Her World" exhibit with Society Curator Randall H. Bennett following her presentation on "Molly Ockett and other Abanki Healers" during Sudbury Canada Days,



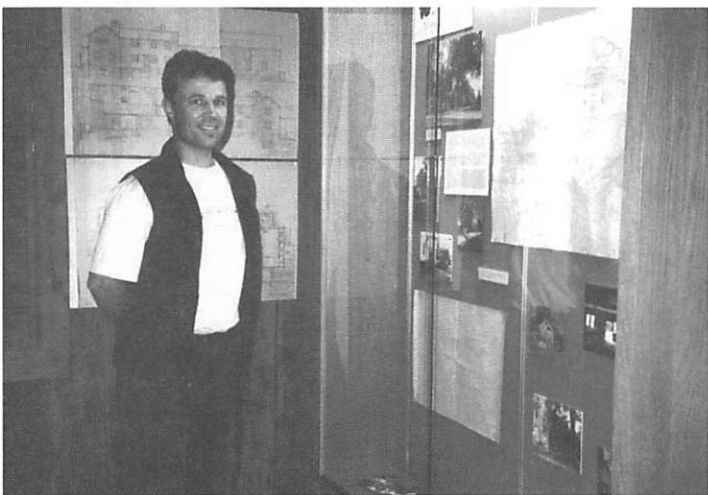
Telstar Middle School students tour the facilities of the Society during a visit in the fall as part of a project to learn about resources held by historical societies that could be used in researching the local past.



*Society Trustee John B. Head (left) receives an autographed copy of Bunny McBride's *Women of the Dawn* from the author following her lecture during Sudbury Canada Days.*



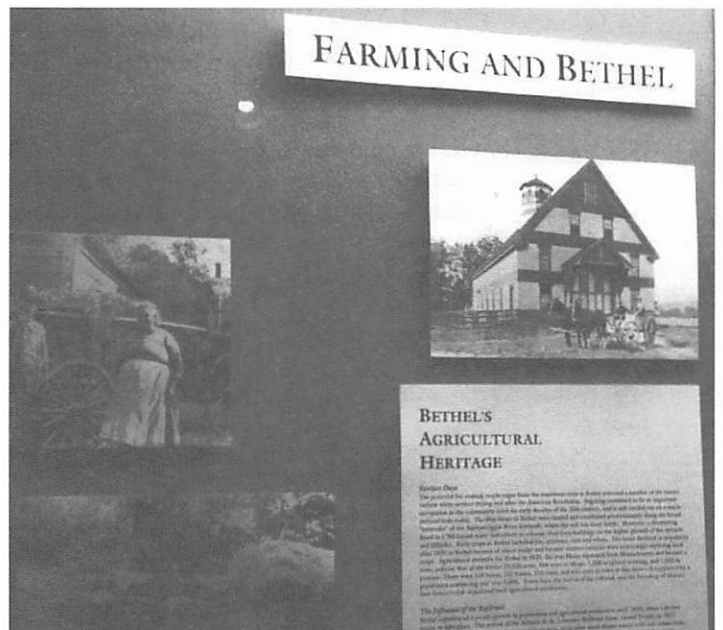
Re-enactors gather around the monument on the Bethel Town Common during Sudbury Canada Days.



Visitors to the Smithsonian's "Barn Again!" exhibition came from many parts of the world. Chris Dalglish from Christchurch, New Zealand, shown above in the Dr. Moses Mason barn, was probably the visitor who came the furthest distance.



A rainy day did not appear to dampen the spirits of a large crowd attending the 200th anniversary activities of the Town of Newry. Here a float depicting an outsized "cake" celebrating the anniversary was part of the parade.



As part of the Smithsonian's "Barn Again!" exhibit, the Society created a local component dealing with Bethel barns and farming.



The "Yet to be Named Banjo Band" entertained following the Log Driver's Bean Supper during Sudbury Canada Days.

Western Maine Saints: A Newry Family (Sessions)



By Mary E. Valentine

After the Sessions family arrived in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in September 1847, Patty Bartlett Sessions wrote in her diary that it was a beautiful place and she was thankful that she and her husband, as well as her son, Perrigrine, his two wives and two children, had arrived safely after their long journey, and with no serious accidents to themselves or their wagons.

After their arrival, David and Perrigrine took responsibility for finding grazing for the Saints' cattle and guarding the herd. When they were relieved of this duty, they cut logs for their new house, and hauled them to the site. They moved into their new home on 18 November, none too soon, since a windstorm on 1 November destroyed the tent where they had lived since arriving. Patty was continuing her work as a midwife and healer, and enjoying meeting with the other women in the colony.

In the summer of 1849, Patty learned that her daughter Sylvia's husband had died in January at age 39. Sylvia had married Windsor P. Lyon during the family's residence in Missouri. When the Saints settled in Nauvoo, Windsor had opened a pharmacy there. When the Saints were driven out of Illinois in the winter of 1846, Patty had hoped Sylvia and Windsor would join in the journey across the plains to Utah Territory, but Windsor had chosen to join his brother in Iowa City, where they became business partners in a pharmacy there. Patty's younger son David had also chosen to stay with his sister in Iowa City. Patty and her daughter tried to keep in touch, but delivery of mail depended on finding someone traveling between Iowa City and Utah. Sylvia had suffered much sorrow as one child after another had died before reach age four. When Windsor died, Sylvia's only surviving child was Josephine, probably fathered by Joseph Smith. When Patty learned of Windsor Lyon's death, she hoped Sylvia and Josephine would leave Iowa City and join her in Utah. In the middle of October 1849, Perrigrine started for Iowa City to bring his sister, Sylvia and brother, David home to Utah. But when Perrigrine arrived in Iowa City on 1 January 1850, he learned that Sylvia was about to marry again, this time a banker and businessman, Ezekiel Clark, so she would not be going to Utah. However, Perrigrine's younger brother David agreed to join Perrigrine on the return to Salt Lake. They left Iowa in April 1850, well equipped for the journey, thanks to Sylvia's new husband. They were accompanied on the return trip by a group of travelers on the way to California, attracted by the discovery of gold there. Perrigrine, an experienced traveler by that time led the group safely to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, where they thanked him for his guidance thus far, and went on their way.

Meanwhile, in December 1849, Patty's husband, David, told her that he had again received permission to take a plural wife, this time a nineteen year old woman, Harriet Teeple Wixom. At the end of July 1850, David had a stroke and came to Patty to be cared for. He died on 11 August and the next December Patty was called to assist in the birth of David and Harriet's son. Patty tried to help Harriet, but relations between the two wives were strained and the baby died in 1851.

After her first husband's death in the summer of 1850, Patty Bartlett Sessions' diary entries indicate that she still continued the work ethic learned growing up in the Sunday River Valley in Maine. Besides ministering to the sick and attending births as a midwife, Patty writes of planting, weeding and harvesting her garden, tending her orchard, harvesting and drying the fruit in the fall, sewing and mending for herself and others, knitting, spinning and weaving rag rugs. Sometimes she provided room and board for transients; they sometimes helped with fencing and cutting firewood, but one boarder left no money, only two kinds of bed bugs! In December 1851, Patty married again, and wrote in her diary that she was thankful to have a man to cut firewood for her. John Parry had come to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake with a group of eighty five Welsh converts in the 1849 emigration with the George A. Smith Company. John's Welsh wife, Mary Williams, had died crossing the plains, but some of his children had come with him. The Welsh converts, with their Welsh choral singing tradition, were a great asset to the choir that sang for the Saint's conference in Salt Lake City, where the new Tabernacle was dedicated on 11 April 1852. Brigham Young asked John Parry to direct the choir, and he continued in this work for some years. In 1865, George Careless, a talented musician who had studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, arrived in the Salt Lake settlement and was appointed "Chief Musician of the Church." After John Parry's death in 1868, Careless became the next director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

In September 1852, Perrigrine Sessions was sent on a mission to England. He arrived in Liverpool in January 1853. The missionary work of the Saints in England had been very successful; between 1849 and 1852, about 14,000 inhabitants had been added to the Utah territory population, many of them poor people who hoped for more opportunity in America than they had in England. Those who had no money were helped by the Perpetual Emigration Fund. When it became too expensive to provide wagon trains, many of the poorer families walked from Iowa City, where handcarts were built for them, and food was provided for the trip. Perrigrine's health was poor during most of the time he spent in England, and he returned to the U.S. by steamboat instead of sailing vessel, leaving England on 2 March 1854, and arriving in Portland, Maine on 17 March. He spent the night in Portland with a former Bethel resident, Orange Frost, then took the train to Bethel, where he stayed with one of his mother's relatives. On Sunday morning, he went to a Methodist meeting at Middle Intervale, then visited Bartlett, Kilgore, and Sessions relatives in the area. Early in April, Perrigrine took the train to Portland, a boat to Boston, then train, boat, and stagecoach to Iowa City. This time his sister Sylvia was willing to go to Utah with Perrigrine. Sylvia's husband, Ezekiel Clark, apparently respected her desire to be with her mother in Utah, and provided the equipment and supplies they needed for the trip. Sylvia's daughter, Josephine, ten years old, and the three children she had with Ezekiel Clark, Perry, age 3, Phoebe, age 2 and Martha less than a year old, went with her. Ezekiel asked her to send the boy, Perry, back in a few years for his education. This she did, but Perry returned to Utah in his adulthood and died there.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Barn Redux Bethel's Most Modern Barn in 1950

by Donald G. Bennett

(continued from the last issue)

As mentioned earlier, the “bull barn” was in the basement of the new garage and not in the main cow barn. Eric Wight again remembered that sometimes if one was in the main house he or she could feel the shudder or hear the occasional bang or thud or bellow from the garage’s lower level “tenants.”

The new hay barn, as I recall it, was a two story rectangular building with a hip style, split-porch roof. Like the cow barn, this building was designed for hay alone, an “industrial strength” hay barn. Fireproof walls and roof were made of large, very heavy, composition panels attached to wooden frames. The panels were a mixture of concrete and asbestos. Tapered concrete pilings raised the barn off the ground. This design feature allowed air to flow through the spaces left between its floorboards so that the stored hay was naturally ventilated. Baled hay versus loose hay was another change in the farm’s modus operandi. Paul had purchased a New Holland hay baler for the farm. (Eric believes his grandfather Paul and his father Daniel may have driven to New Holland, PA, to get it.) If one has a separate barn, getting hay out of storage and moved in front of the cows is far easier with bales than using pitchforks and loose hay; this had been the method used in the previous barn.

All of this probably sounded pretty good to farmers who did not have these amenities. I know that I was impressed. However, in real life some drawbacks developed; in the winter, despite built-in ventilators, moisture inside the cow barn turned to frost when it hit the cold tiles of the fireproof walls. Also, after the “automated” silo came into use, the combination of run-off liquids and deep freeze temperatures caused freeze-ups in the spiral worm gear mechanism that unloaded the silo into feed carts. It turned out that old-fashioned silage forks were still needed.

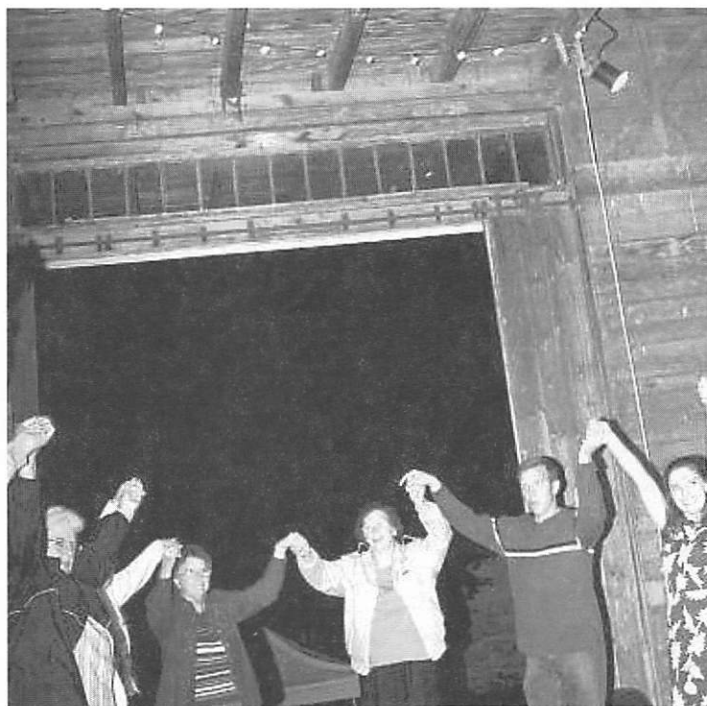
After the new barns were finished and occupied, Mike recalls that driver complaints about cows crossing the highway led to the building by the State of a concrete underpass beneath the main road (U.S. Route 2 and Maine Route 26). This tunnel allowed the herd of milking cows to move to and from their pasture safely. Cattle crossing the main highway in summer were always a challenge to summer vacationers who often tried impatiently to drive through the herd. The afternoon crossing at our farm required at least four people to safely get the cows from their pasture across the road to the barn. On one occasion, I thought my father was going to ram a car with his tractor (early example of “road rage”) when an out-of-state driver tried to push through the line of cows crossing the road.

With virtually a new farm operation things were definitely looking up. Paul Thurston must have enjoyed a full sense of satisfaction over what he had accomplished. Besides the barns, there were other dairying techniques that were increasingly coming into use that kept dairy farmers on their toes; selective breeding (versus one bull for all calls) and

internal herd improvement had become the name of the dairy game. By using selective breeding, dairy farmers like the Thurstons could plan an almost assured path of genetic improvement for raising more productive cows. Also, since 1908, Maine had been part of the dairy movement to test cows regularly—cattle testing associations became Maine’s Dairy Herd Improvement Association’s monthly report. Each DHIA member’s mail included an honor roll listing of top cow producers. It was like a monthly SAT for cows (and their owners) that showed how one herd fared against others. This report created a spirit of friendly competition among dairy farmers. The race was on. Who in Bethel or Oxford County or Maine would raise the most productive dairy cows? The monthly honor roll would provide the answer.

This was the state of things when on 9 August 1963, Paul Thurston died. Reading the news of his death in the *Bethel Citizen* for 15 August 1963, an outsider would never have known that he owned, operated and lived on what was the most modern, up to date dairy farm in Bethel at that time. The quality of his livestock, their production, feeding and care closely monitored by “Tink” Felt, enjoyed upper level ranking in the hall’s of Maine’s dairy agriculture. The fact that Thurston, a “local boy,” had climbed life’s career ladder to many achievements (President of J. A. Thurston Company, Chairman and former longtime (since 1934) President of the Rumford Bank and Trust Company, President of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees, and Chairman of the Maine Turnpike Authority, to name a few) must have seemed too “glamorous” to that day’s obituary writer to even think of mentioning such a mundane lifetime pursuit as dairy farming.

(To be continued in the next issue)



The barn dance at the Prodigal Inn in the Mayville section of Bethel was one of several events held during the late summer and early fall of 2005 in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution’s traveling exhibition, “Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon” at the Society’s Dr. Moses Mason Barn.

Diary of William S. Hastings

(continued from the last issue)



1942-April 1, Cloudy. Worked on map. Snow covers the ground here, 2 to 3 feet in the woods. April 2, Clear & cool. Finished Bethel Town Farm lines, 4 hrs. ($\frac{1}{2}$ to Ernest Holt). April 3, Clear & warm. Went to Portland with Leslie and Bernice Noyes. April 4, Cloudy. Measured Eames wood lot. Worked on defense map. April 5, Cloudy. Showed Harry Howe and Win Noyes around the Linti lot for Ed Mann, \$4. April 6, Clear & warm. Looked up lines between Edwards & Cross in 19R2. P.M. cut pine. Snow is about 2 feet in the woods. April 7, Rain. Put up load of spuds. Finished map. April 8, Clear & windy. Cut hemlock in a.m. Round home in p.m. April 9, Cold & windy. Laid out short road for Greenwood selectmen, \$2.50. Traced the Greenwood-Bethel line from E. Bethel road to Woodstock corner. Mason meeting in eve. April 10, Cloudy, cold. Cut hemlock in a.m. Varnished snowshoes in p.m. April 11, Snow, 6-9 inches. April 12, Blow. Cold! Greenwood in p.m. April 13, Warmer. Yarded logs all day. April 14, Warm Cleared part of Bean pasture opening for log yard. April 15, Rain. Made cupboards, etc. April 16, Clear & warm. Finished yarding logs & hauled wood. Snow is settling. Still from a foot to 18 in. in the woods. Dooryard is bare. Gym exhibition at Gould in eve. April 17, Clear & warm. Ground oats and sawed wood. April 18, Cloudy. Sawed wood. Showers. April 19, Showery, cold! Greenwood in p.m. Barb & Mary Sue [Adams, her roommate] went with us. April 20, Showers, colder! South Paris in a.m. Everything closed up for Holiday. Cruised Wiley pasture in p.m. Saw Jim Reynolds [Newry selectman]. April 21, Cloudy, cold. 3 hrs. on Lawrence Lord's house lot, Mason St. Paid. 3 hrs. for F. Edwards on Valentine line & counting stumps. April 22, Clear & warm. Shingled stable roof, one side. Pond cleared of ice. April 23, Clear & warm. Roofed the back side of the stable. April 24, Clear & warm. Put up spuds a.m. Norway in p.m. Met Miss Winifred Robinson of Hartford. Am to make a map for her. April 25, Clear & hot. Worked on map, 2 hr. Finished stable roof. Bethel in p.m. April 26, Clear & warm. Went to Church with the Lodge. P.M. around home. April 27, Clear & warm. Registration of 45 to 65 year olds [wartime count]. April 28, Clear & warm. 9 hr. for Bethel Savings Bank on Ring lot, Greenwood. Jim Reynolds and I renewed East line. Meeting of the Committee on Water Co. April 29, Showers in a.m. Clear & warm. 9 hrs. on same job. Clear round the West side. Home at 8:30 p.m. April 30, Clear & warm. 9 hrs. on Bethel-Greenwood line. Ran 500 rods+. May 1, Clear & hot. 9 hrs. on Town line, thru to Locke Mills-Bethel road. 500 rods more. May 2, Clouding. Bank lot in Greenwood. Finished the job. May 3, Clear & hot. Round home in a.m. Star rehearsal in p.m. May 4, Cloudy, warm. 8 hr. on Town line. May 5, Clear & cool. 4 hrs. on town line & finished. 6 hrs. for B. Savings Bank on Lot 7 R3, Albany. Home at 8:15 p.m. May 6, Clear & cool. 7 hr. for Ben Billings in Lot 49, Woodstock. \$7 pd. Degree work in O.E.S. [Order of Eastern Star] in eve. Went fine. May 7, Rain. Put up spuds. May 8, Cloudy. Butchered veal. Plowed. Took Dad to Dr. Swett. John [Howe] & I manned the Observation Post [to watch for enemy planes]. Alumni Assn. Meeting. I'm Marshall for Table Decorating Committee. May 9, Clearing. I plowed all day. May 10, Clearing & cold! Planted peas. Ruth's folks up. May 11, Clear & cool. Put up spuds. Norway in p.m. I've a rotten cold.

(To be continued in the next issue)



Member Profiles

Norman and Sylvia Clanton

Norm Clanton was born in McAlester, Oklahoma, the son of Norman and Imogene Clanton. Early in his life, his family moved to San Antonio, Texas, where he attended local schools and graduated from Jefferson High School. He attended Southwestern University before joining the U. S. Air Force. In twenty-one years of service, he logged 6200 hours of flying time as a navigator before retiring with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He married the former Sylvia Dyke in Tennessee in 1963. Later he graduated from Chaminade College in Honolulu, HI.

Sylvia Clanton was born in Barrington, New Jersey, the daughter of Sidney and Verna Berry Dyke. She came to Bethel when she was two and was educated in local schools and in military schools in Europe. She graduated from high school in Fayetteville, North Carolina and went on to receive a B.S. in accounting from Simmons College. After college, she joined the U.S. Air Force.

During his years in the U.S. Air Force, Norm's family lived in Tennessee, Florida, Arkansas, Hawaii and Illinois. After he retired from the Air Force, his family moved to Bethel, Maine, where they own the house that once belonged (among others) to the famed music critic, Henry T. Finck in the Mayville section of the town. They are the parents of three children and have one grandchild. Norm has worked in law enforcement since coming to Bethel and has specialized in court security for the past fifteen years. Sylvia has worked as a receptionist at several area businesses and as a substitute teacher. She has also volunteered for the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce. Norm has served on the Vocational Region 9 Board for many years. Both have been active in the Bethel Methodist Church and as Vietnam War veterans in the American Legion, Mundt-Allen Post # 81, where Norm is currently serving as commander. His hobbies include ham radio operations and woodworking. Sylvia enjoys crafts, knitting, sewing, cooking and Red Hat activities. At the Society, Norm has long been a member of the Program Committee and Sylvia has volunteered in the museum shop and as a guide in the museum. Both have also assisted with Courier mailings for several years.

Book Note

The Hurricane of 1938. By Aram Goudsouzian. (Beverly, MA: Commonwealth Editions, 1994. Pp. 90. Paper. \$12.95.)

The 1938 Hurricane was the worst natural disaster to hit New England, killing more people than the San Francisco earthquake and Chicago Fire combined. Striking New England on the first day of fall, September 21, 1938, it left 680 dead and thousands homeless. Over eighty percent of New Englanders were without electricity and 175 churches were damaged, six totally destroyed. In our region of Maine, there were many trees blown down by the hurricane winds that required harvesting before infestation by insects destroyed their market value. Aram Goudsouzian provides many interesting details of this disaster along with numerous photos documenting the destruction. The section on "Sources" contains useful references for those interested exploring this topic further. There is also a convenient index.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the hurricane of '38 will profit from consulting this book.

SRH

For ordering information, please see page 12.

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Allen Cressy, President; Susan Herlihy, Vice President; Sarah Tucker, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Grace McKivergan, Treasurer; Trustees: June Abbott, Dorothy Bartlett, Walter Hatch, John Head, and Arlan Jodrey.

Editor's Corner

As we complete another year and the fourth issue of this volume of *The Courier*, it is always interesting to consider the topics covered, the Society news presented, and the photographs included. We try to make our space count by attempting to present something of interest to most of our readers. 2005 was a year of great excitement, particularly with the appearance of the Smithsonian's "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" exhibit, but also one of great sadness for many of us as this issue reports the sudden death of one of our most distinguished volunteers. Thanks are due all our members and friends for their generosity in support of the Society. We are also extremely grateful to the Maine Humanities Council for making the Smithsonian exhibition available to us and for all their fine support throughout its time in Bethel. Special thanks are due Trudy Hickey of the Maine Humanities Council staff for her expert guidance along the way as we planned for the exhibit's arrival in the spring until the time it departed our site in late October. She is a true professional and we all thoroughly enjoyed working with her. Thanks, Trudy!

One other note, former Society president Cathy Newell was present at the opening of the "Barn Again!" exhibit, representing Congressman Michael Michaud, but she departed prior to the photographic session.

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- Reduced course fees
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Note: New memberships activated after July 1 include that calendar year, plus the following year.

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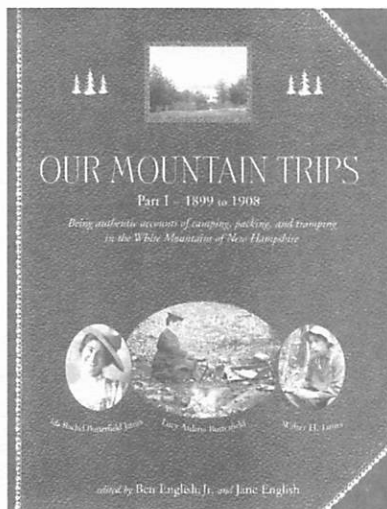
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